

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

April 2007

Page 1

## Pres' Message.

### Greetings to the Membership!

Today I turned on my transceiver to perfume the air in my home office with some code practice Morse signals while I type. I've been cramming for my T-1 FCC exam coming up at the end of April. I find my attention span and studying skills aren't what they used to be.

Spring officially arrived March 21st and we have gratefully survived the winter without any fierce weather. I am the team leader for the emergency generator that powers the KWMR translator in Bolinas. I, for one, am very grateful that I didn't have to venture out to its remote location on any dark and stormy nights this year. Spring brings the Amateur community's honoring of Guglielmo Marconi's birthday and Marconi Day, as it has come to be called, will be observed on April 28th this year. Word has it that K6KPH will be participating.

Preparations for the joint Field Day effort with the REDX Assn. in June are moving forward. The respective club chairpersons are meeting at the end of this month. If you plan to attend Field Day at the Marin Rod and Gun Club on June 23-24, NOON TO NOON with set up starting Friday the 22nd, be sure to let Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ know so he can plan the best use of the equipment that will be available.

Please take a minute to read the minutes from the Board of Directors March 8 meeting. A programmable thermostat was purchased and installed which is lowering our energy costs for heating the meeting area of the building. The water system should be fitted with a pressure reducing valve in the near future. The board desperately needs leads for potential contracting candidates to submit bids for repairs to the clubhouse. If you know of anyone who might be interested in submitting a bid, please pass their contact information to a board member. I cannot stress how important it is that we have bids to compare before we start repairs. Time is of the essence. We have achieved a bit of momentum with reference to the building. Let's keep the effort going. >————column two————>

Website at W6SG.NET  
Phone 415.389.6630

**This is the last issue for those who have not renewed their membership. QSA-5 will be sent in PDF format as soon as we get the kinks out of the system. If you didn't provide an updated email address on the renewal form, we will try the one we have on file. If that fails, we'll try changing the suffix to @sbcglobal.net or @comcast.net.**

**A test email will be run on each of the addresses on file. If there is no error message returned, we will assume that the address is valid. Those who specifically requested a hard copy by Postal mail, on the renewal form, will continue to get QSA-5 by that route.**

**The use of PDF format, as well as lowering our costs, allows for the use of additional pages in QSA-5. You could send in a picture of your home station, mobile installation, favorite dog, cat, sheep, goat or the internet address of an interesting and/or humorous video. Use your imagination but please avoid using any of the 'Seven Words' in the text which would make it necessary for us to substitute wimpy synonyms.**

Thanks for reading this month's missive. Remember to come to the meetings and voice your opinions. This is your club. The Board of Directors is your trusted servant. We need your input to be responsive to your needs.

73 es 88 de DA

P.O. Box 6423  
San Rafael, CA 94903

### General Meeting 2 March

The meeting was called to order at 19:35 by President Denise KI6BBR. The agenda was approved. The Secretary was absent and Treasurer Dave KG6TCJ recorded the minutes. Approve Minutes of the February 2, 2007 Meeting as Printed in QSA5

#### Correspondence;

The Secretary informed the President that he had sent a letter to outgoing Building Manager John Butler thanking him for his years of service.

An email inquiry was received from Peter Cooke KG6OE about joining the club.

#### Treasurers Report;

Treasurer Dave Hodgson gave the following report for February:

General Checking Account  
13,541.89

Building Checking Account  
702.66

Certificates of Deposit Repeaters  
\$5,593.24

Certificates of Deposit General  
\$19,635.73

Total Assets

02/28/2007 \$39,473.52

February Income \$ 2,755.00, February Expenses \$416.11

**(Don't be deluded into thinking we are a rich club. This total will decrease rapidly as the repair work on the building proceeds. The work will probably require more than we have at this time. We rely on the income from our tenant, dues and donations, as well as cutting unnecessary expenses. ed.)**

John Reed KI6BBQ suggested that we could get a better interest rate on our CDs by negotiating with BofA. He had just renegotiated his with the bank for a substantially higher rate than the club is currently getting. Treasurer Dave agreed to contact the bank and see if the club can do the same.

**Recreation Committee;** Connie has reserved the Redwood Grove Picnic site at Sam Taylor Park for September 15.

**Public Service Committee;** Chuck Deatrack WA6SQQ has volunteered to help Randy KA6BQF with this year's public service events. He reported that we still need

Page 2, column 1.

General Meeting, cont.  
volunteers for May 5<sup>th</sup> when the club will be manning two events on the same day, the Miwok and the Relay.

**Tech Committee:** Doug KF6AKU gave a report on the Tiburon 147.330 repeater input. The County had the electricity turned off. We are trying to find out who owns the vault so we can negotiate to have the power turned back on. We expect the site to be down for at least for two months. Dave Hodgson gave a brief report on the lease negotiations for Mt Tam Middle Peak repeater vault.

**Education Committee:** Ben N6PJZ reported that five people had taken the technician class from the Southern Marin CERT group. He was working with Tom Jordan KG6TCM to see if others would be interested in training.

**V.E. Committee:** Al W5ALW reported that he was expecting a large turnout for the VE session March 3 at the clubhouse. This was due to the FCC dropping the code requirement to hold a General or Extra license.

**Field Day:** President Denice KI6BBR announced that Dave KG6TCJ has volunteered to chair our club's part of this year's Field Day. We will be running a joint event at the Rod and Gun Club site with Redwood Empire DX Assn. (REDXA) so it should be a great 24 hours. REDX will be putting up 55' towers along with beam antennas. StepIR has loaned REDX one of their antennas. The club will help with radios and tuners. Set up will start Friday June 23 at 8 AM.

**Membership:** The Dave & Phil team reported that the dues statements mailed a few weeks ago have had a return rate of about 50%. **(All but 20 had renewed by 3/30 and some of those will pay when Dave catches them at the clubhouse. ed.)**

**Kids Day:** we are looking for a chair if anyone is interested please contact Denice.

**Building Manager:** Rich W6UDS gave a fairly complete description of what needs to be done to make required repairs to the clubhouse. He and Denice recently met with a contractor who toured the building and will be submitting a bid for repairs. The main point he was making was that the time is long overdue to make repairs. GOTTA FIX IT! Denice forwarded a recommendation from her father who has been in the heating industry all his life that we should install a setback timer thermostat for the furnace. Rich procured one and installed it. (It was operational on Sunday 3/25. ed.)

**New Business:** There was a brief discussion of the club's mission statement and if we were instituting it. Dave Hodgson reported that he had been working with Glenn Meader N1ZKW our webmaster with updates to the club's website and the addition of a secure password protected members only section. The group was also reminded that QSA5 will soon be sent via email so please let us know if you have a new email address. Column two.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:50. Next meeting is April 6. Respectfully submitted by Dave Hodgson. The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the Secretary's files as maintained at the Corporation office.

### Board Of Directors Meeting, 3/8

The meeting was called to order by President Denice at 19:33 hours. Present were board members Stoops, Jenkins, Weisman, Dunlap, Hodgson, Baetz, Carbine; and trustees Slusher and Koehler.

The agenda was approved as submitted. **Discussion about the comm truck was deferred to the April meeting.**

Secretary Randy reported that a thank you letter for the donation of Heathkit radio equipment had been mailed.

Treasurer Dave submitted his monthly report which showed February income of \$2755.00 in February expenses of \$416.11. Cash and deposit assets of the club totaled \$39,473.52. Dave reported that the rent was current. There was a discussion about maturing certificates of deposit. A motion passed to authorize Dave to move the currently maturing CD to another financial institution if a higher rate of return could be obtained, and to augment the balance of said CD by \$800 to meet a \$5,000 minimum requirement.

The issue of the 2007 budget, that had been presented by Dave at the February meeting was taken up. An update to several of the figures was submitted. There was a protracted and wide ranging discussion on club expenses, and the condition of the building. A motion was made and passed **(4,2,2)** to adopt the budget submission as a working document (memo of intent) with reductions to be made in club expenses.

Membership Team Dave & Phil reported that there were 50 plus renewals for 2007, not counting life members.

It was commented under Recreation Committee that the picnic was scheduled for September 15, and the site had been paid for. It was adopted by resolution of the board that the format for the year's picnic would change to a bring-your-own-food event. The club will supply drinks, charcoal and condiments.

Public Service Committee: Dave reported on a meeting he had had today with the Marin cyclists about the Marin Century/Mt. Tam Double Century bike ride. The ride is scheduled for Saturday, August 4. We will be invited to one of their additional organizational meetings. Jenkins reported that we have the Miwok 100 coming up on May 5, we already have some volunteers, and additional volunteers were being recruited. Also, volunteers are being recruited for the Relay which runs from the afternoon of May 5 into the early morning of May 6.

K6GWE Trustee Doug reported on the loss of the Tiburon repeater input. The County has moved out of the vault and had the power disconnected. Doug is in contact with Page 3, column 3.

### Saving Power by Eric Rosenquist.

For those who power their station from 12 volt batteries, the C Crane Co. [www.ccrane.com] has some very cool [and unfortunately pricy] LED light bulbs that run on 12 volts – I just got the 36 led bulb assembly, which draws a mere 3 watts and is more than bright enough to light up a small station work space – a couple of them would handle the room lighting. This comes at a cost of about \$45 per lamp [which is supposed to be good for 60,000 hours or more – will it to the grandkids]. Interesting, and very white, high definition light output. All of their bulbs are available in 120 volt configuration and some of them in 12 volts so if you use a UPS for your PC, this light won't drain your computer back-up battery either.

An item for you RACES members, Black Diamond climbing gear has a headlight outfit that would be close to perfect for RACES use – it's called the "Icon", and the specific model I'm speaking of comes equipped with a 3-watt LED main focused beam, and a 4 super bright close work LED array. Either one has 3 intensity settings, it uses 3 – AA batteries. This one is without a doubt, the best I've seen yet. The 3-watt main beam is very well focused and bright, but even the lower intensity LED's are enough to walk a trail easily and the light is diffused enough to write and read with. The battery life is more than adequate for a summer's worth of events. At \$60 retail, this item is not cheap, but it does include 3 premium AA batteries in the package. [Please note, there is a nearly identical unit with a 1-watt main LED. Be sure you read the package so that you buy the correct one for the brightest light – you cannot interchange the LED's] I know this item is available at rei and I'm sure it can be had elsewhere.

I have also been playing with the 'Kill-A-Watt' energy monitor. This unit plugs between the wall and the appliance and keeps a running total of energy consumption, as well as real-time numbers. I've found this item to be very handy in monitoring the radio station battery charger system, but I'm sure it could also be very useful to track the operating cost of refrigerators, heaters, and for discovering "vampire" loads – such as how much power your TV draws when its off. Example: My Astron RM-50 13.8 VDC supply draws a whopping 30 watts when turned on, even with no external load. My flat-panel computer monitor, while having a much lower draw than the CRT model, still sucks 25 watts. How much does that old freezer in the basement draw? This item is available from C Crane and Edmund Scientific for around \$35. It's only fault is that it does not have it's own battery, so you lose all memory when the power drops. I use a short heavy-duty extension cord to remote it to where I can read it, since it can be hard to read where the wall receptacle is behind a refrigerator or similar location.

Eric, KG6WOU

**K6GWE Repeaters****Big Rock Ridge 147.330 +****2 meters****INPUTS**

pl 203.5 Big Rock  
 pl 179.9 Mt. Tam west  
 pl 167.9 Mt. Barnabe  
 pl 192.8 Tiburon

**Mt. Tamalpais 146.700 -**

pl 179.9 Mt. Tam input

**San Pedro Ridge 147.330 +**

pl 173.8 off-line - reserve status.

**440****San Pedro Ridge**

443.525 + pl 82.5

**Mt. Tamalpais**

443.250 + pl 179.9

**Go here for some radio history with some plugs for Amateur Radio, too:**

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4569021939106575335>

**This is definitely worth checking out.**

**Contributed by Dave KG6TCJ**

**Here's another video on ham radio of 1958 including emergency communications. These hams did it the old way with mobile AM. They used a repeater on ten meters. It was a helluva lot of fun back then, partly because you could build your own gear.**

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=2943570522939177086&hl=en>

**Check out the cars of the 1950s, too.**

**This one also sent in by Dave Hodgson.**

We lost one of our Life members, **Louis Batch, W6JSN**, of San Francisco. The note said, "Please remove Louis Batch's name from your roster. He passed away 10-18-02 at 92. Thanks.

Do you remember Mary Lou Retton, 1984 Olympic Gold Medalist? She's already had a hip joint replacement. Maybe you'd better consider taking it a little easier on those gymnastics.

If you've seen the movie 'Frequency', is the HF transceiver used a Heathkit?

The call used in the movie, W2QYV, belongs to the Niagara Radio Club, Inc., of Lewiston, N.Y. The call is not listed in the 1993 QRZ file. However, the 1956 Callbook shows it belongs to the same club but in Niagara Falls, N.Y. So, did the call expire and was unassigned when the movie was made? Gonna check some later Callbooks. QRZ count is over 8K.

**Jerry Knecht, KC6UYC**, of San Anselmo has had to resign from MARS for medical reasons. He also regrets the end of his sailing career.

"Jerry, who lives in San Anselmo, circumnavigated from April '95 to March '97 via the South Pacific, Torres Strait, Indian Ocean, Red Sea, Suez Canal, Atlantic Ocean, Panama Canal and home. He did it aboard his Moody 425 named Night Watch. His main crew was his wife, Sue, and John McVea - although several other friends joined for different legs of the voyage. Jerry was the first member of the San Francisco Yacht Club to circumnavigate, and was awarded the Yachtsman of the Year Award in 1997. A Cruising Trophy was created in his honor at the yacht club, using a scale model of Night Watch. Jerry is a retired attorney and a member of both the San Francisco YC and the Cruising Club of America."

John E. Sanford, Tiburon.

Plagiarized from the internet.

**New Members.**

We have three new members of the Matej family: Harald KI6IMZ, General; Elisabeth KI6IMV, Tech; Madelaine KI6IMW, Tech. All three took Ben's Tech class and passed their tests at the last VE session at the clubhouse. They are members of Southern Marin CERT, Community Emergency Response Team.

Another new member who is also part of CERT: Sandra Mikesell KB6HBJ, Tech.

**SK** MARS member, Clifford Gerstner, WB6KYL died 3/13. Cliff was a Navy Radioman during WW2. After the war he worked 38 years for the Western Pacific Railroad as Engineer of Maintenance of Way.

If you saw "**A Prairie Home Companion**", a movie about a radio show originating in St. Paul, the radio version is still alive and well where it's always been, on KQED radio, 88.5 FM in the Bay Area and on 89.3 in Sac'to. Saturday 1800-2000 and a repeat on Sunday 1100-1300 or streamed at [www.kqed.org](http://www.kqed.org). Garrison Keillor and the bunch. With sponsors Bebop-a-Re-Bop Rhubarb Pie, Powdermilk Biscuits and a few others.

A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlor and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool. After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split. The waitress asked kindly, "Crushed nuts?" "No," he replied, "arthritis."

**Board Meeting, cont.**

the water district to see if we can remain and get the power restored. Comments were also made on the status of the Middle Peak repeater and the West Peak input.

Comm Truck Committee: Doug has some radio equipment to install.

VE Coordinator: Al Weisman reported on the VE session that had been held the previous Saturday. He reports there will be a VE session scheduled for the first Saturday in June.

Field Day: Going along well. The Rod & Gun Club site has been reserved. We will have more input from REDX. next month.

Old Business: We will set a date for completing the PRV installation of the building as soon as the equipment has been purchased. (1 April)

Denice had Michael Burkell look at the drainage culvert at the rear of the property. According to Denice's research, there is no county easement for the culvert, and the PG&E easement is only for the overhead electric lines. Our only requirement is to make the rear of our property is safe to the property line. Once the water leaves our property it is the responsibility of the down stream property owners.

The storage shed on the side of the building was discussed. The tenant had been using it to store some things. Denice will e-mail the tenant to see if she still wants to continue to use it. If so, it needs to be repaired, as the doors have broken off.

The issue of a programmable thermostat was raised. It was moved to purchase a seven-day programmable thermostat for the heating system at a cost not to exceed \$75.

Denice again requested that if anybody knows of additional contractors who would be qualified to work on the building, they be referred to her or to Rich.

New Business: There was a discussion about the possibility of raising money by getting a grant from an outside source. There was also a comment that we should begin by raising money from within our membership. We need to identify the project that needs to be done, with costs, and presented to the membership.

Doug Slusher made some comments on inter-Board communications.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:02 hours. Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins KA6BQF

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the Secretary's files has maintained its corporate office.

**For the second consecutive billing period, our PG&E gas usage has decreased considerably. This period we used 2.7 therms per day compared to 2006's 4.4. This reduction can be attributed to weather and the furnace being shut off when the clubhouse is not occupied.**

**General Membership Meeting** is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse on Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM. Turn right at the first stop light west off hwy 101 at the Mill Valley/Tiburon exit. Angle right at next stop sign, then turn left at next street, Shell Road. We are in the two story building on the left directly under the power lines.

**Business/Board Meeting** meets at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley on the second Thursday at 7:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend to try to keep the clowns honest.

**Sunday morning informal meeting**, smilingly called The bible (or babble) class meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting at roughly 0800 hours and runs to around 1100 hours. This weekly event is hosted by **Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ**, our Ham of The Year in 1996, whose absence would be the result of serious disease or dismemberment, only. **Dues structure is: \$25.00 per year. \$30 for family memberships.** No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

**There is a senior/student category but nobody knows what the dues are.**

<p><b>Marin Amateur Radio Society</b></p> <p><b>President:</b> Denice Stoops KI6BBR 672-0303</p> <p><b>Vice President:</b> Eric Rosenquist KG6WOU 257-8841</p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864</p> <p><b>Additional Board Members:</b> Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887 Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 Tom Jordan KG6TCM 497-4406 Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978</p>	<p><b>Education Chair:</b> Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170 kermode7@hotmail.com</p> <p><b>Membership:</b> Dave and Phil</p> <p><b>VE Liaison:</b> Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978</p> <p><b>Bldg. Manager</b> Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136</p> <p><b>Trustee for W6SG:</b> Augie Koehler KØCQL</p> <p><b>Trustee for K6GWE:</b> Doug Slusher KF6AKU</p> <p><b>Sunday Emergency Nets:</b> <b>HF</b> Frank Strom WA6JTP <b>VHF</b> Raine Strom KG6GII Corrections to K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>	<p><b>DX Representative of ARRL:</b> Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829</p> <p><b>WEBMASTER</b> Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948 N1ZKW@ARRL.NET</p> <p><b>Public Service Event Coordinators</b> Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 Asst. Tom Jordan KG6TCM 497-4406 Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ 897-7267</p> <p><b>Editor of QSA-5:</b> Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>
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**Marin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**  
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Stamp

The Mailing  
Address  
Goes Here